



# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

*United States Attorney Donald W. Washington  
Western District of Louisiana*

---

United States Courthouse • 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 • (318) 676-3600  
United States Courthouse • 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 • Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206 • (337) 262-6618

---

**For Immediate Release**  
**August 2, 2006**  
**[www.usdoj.gov/usao/law](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/law)**

**Contact: Donald W. Washington (337-262-6618)**  
**William J. Flanagan (318-676-3600)**

## **LOCAL MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO STEALING GOVERNMENT FUNDS**

### ***New Iberia man defrauds \$12,435.56 in Social Security benefits***

Lafayette, Louisiana . . . LOUIS WILKERSON, age 53, from New Iberia, Louisiana pled guilty in federal court today before United States District Judge Tucker Melançon to **theft of government funds**, announced United States Attorney Donald W. Washington.

WILKERSON was indicted in April 2006. Investigations by the Social Security Administration determined that WILKERSON was receiving cash compensation for work he performed while receiving Social Security benefits.

In pleading guilty today, WILKERSON admitted to making false statements regarding his eligibility for Social Security benefits and in doing so, received \$12,435.56 in social security payments of which he was not legally entitled.

According to court documents, WILKERSON had been receiving Social Security benefits since 1990 due to high blood pressure and back problems. In October 2004, WILKERSON signed a continuing disability form in which he stated he has not worked since his disability was determined in 1990. However,

investigations revealed that in October 2004, WILKERSON was employed by Ken's Truck and Trailer sales. WILKERSON had been employed at various places since 1996, knowing that because of his gainful employment he would no longer be entitled to Social Security benefits. Therefore, he willfully failed to report his employment to the Social Security Administration in order to benefit financially.

When sentenced, WILKERSON faces a maximum prison sentence of 10 years imprisonment, 3 years supervised release following any prison term, and a fine of \$250,000.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James T. McManus.

## ##